

Help! My home is being invaded by hoards of noxious pests! My blood pressure hits all time highs when these pests interrupt my peace and privacy and could lead to stroke. Nothing seems to diminish or discourage them, not RAID, not threats, not loud profanity or polite requests to be put on their "do not call" list! I'm beginning to think the only solution is to yank the cord from the wall! I had considered going to a cell phone but, then heard a news story about a woman who received a bill for several hundred dollars due to calls from telemarketers. And, we think terrorists are from abroad!

I pay for my phone and service for my convenience, as do most private subscribers, not for some telemarketing company to have an easy access into my home and privacy. I don't care if it's someone trying to sell me something, an organization looking for a donation or a politician wanting my vote. THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO INVADE MY PRIVACY at their convenience and by way of an instrument and service I am paying for!

The pests seem to be multiplying like cockroaches. Twenty years ago, you might receive a call offering you an extended warranty on an item you had purchased. Perhaps a local organization would call about a local fund raiser. A few years before that, a door to door salesman might knock on your door hoping to sell you some brushes. Now thanks to modern electronics, companies can invade hundreds (if not thousands) of homes per hour. At least the old door to door salesman got off his duff and made a physical effort.

The telemarketing industry would have you believe that they are making a contribution by employing people. However, more and more calls are recordings, which are even more aggravating. It's somewhat akin to dynamiting fish, you'll knock off a lot of minnows but may get a big sucker!

Many telemarketers are devious getting their foot in the door and even down right liars. At one time during my employment years, I was responsible for purchasing office supplies. One telemarketer that stands out in mind would call and say "This is your copier supplier" leading people to believe it was their supplier. Under questioning, it would come to light that Your Copier Supplier was the name of their company. On a personal note, the other day I received a call from a septic tank cleaning company. The lady on the phone called me by name and said that they had cleaned a tank for one of my neighbors. My neighbor had told them that I might need my tank cleaned also. I decided to explore the offer and inquired which neighbor had their tank cleaned and suggested mine might need cleaning also. With very little hesitation, she said that she didn't have that information "readily available". With that, I told her that she was a (blank) liar. I live on a lake which has had a sewer system for well over twenty years. No one near the lake has a septic system and anyone that knows me is well aware that I don't either.

In conclusion, I implore you to protect our homes and right to privacy from these pests. We have six children all of which have families of their own. They are spread from Michigan to Nevada therefore, not answering the phone isn't an option. Please develop a national do not call list at least as strong as the strongest state list. No one or entity should be exempt, neither for profit or not for profit, insurance (?) companies, politicians or even the phone companies!

Perhaps, a partial compromise might be to have the national list include a couple of options available to people who would just as soon receive a certain class of calls. The national list should have a strict no call from anyone. A sub-list would allow calls from non-profit organizations for those people opting to receive

them. Another sub-list could allow political calls, again only to people that chose that option. In any event, the list needs to have teeth in it with heavy fines for anyone circumventing it.

The American public had lost a great deal of our privacy in the last couple of decades. This is your chance to restore a small portion of our rights!

Respectfully submitted, Keith L. Swathwood